

CD 2008--1



Thursday, January 10, 2008
12:10 pm. Walter Hall

Thursdays at Noon
presents

Beverley Johnston and Friends

Paul Marleyn, cello
Mark Duggan, marimba
Jamie Drake, percussion
Peter Stoll, clarinet
Greg Oh, piano

Gavotte from the Violin Partita in E Major
(marimba)

J. S. Bach

Axion Esti
(stamna, voice and CD playback)

George Kondogiorgos
arr. Hatzis and Johnston

Mariel
(cello and marimba)

Oswaldo Golijov

Infancia
(2 marimbas, percussion)

Egberto Gismonti
arr. Bill Brennan

Ermuntre Dich*
(marimba and CD playback)

Micheline Roi

Parlor Music
(clarinet, cello, piano and vibraphone)

Christos Hatzis

**World Premiere*



Next on Thursdays at Noon
Gillian MacKay, trumpet; Lydia Wong, piano; Peter Barnes, baritone
Music by Handel, Ewazen, Büsser and Plog.
January 17, 2008

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Program Notes

Axion Esti is a Greek phrase which, roughly translated, means "anything you desire is worthy". This piece is a song accompanied by the Greek ceramic instrument called stamna. Christos Hatzis provided the "techno" accompaniment which is on the CD playback. George Kondogiorgos lives in Athens. He is busy as both a doctor and a composer.

Composer Osvaldo Golijov says of his piece **Mariel** "I wrote this piece in memory of my friend Mariel Stubrin. I attempted to capture that short instant before grief, in which one learns of the sudden death of a friend who was full of life: a single moment frozen forever in one's memory, and which reverberates through the piece, among the waves and echoes of the Brazilian music that Mariel loved."

Bev Johnston writes "Egberto Gismonti is an amazing piano and guitar player. His work **Infancia** has been performed in many versions, the most impressive I think being Egberto's solo piano version. My colleague and good friend Bill Brennan arranged this version for 2 marimbas in the '90's. It's a fun-loving work that should not be taken too seriously of course but is a great opportunity to enjoy a Brazilian-style work with a contemporary twist which is typical of Gismonti's style."

Micheline Roi writes "The translation of **Ermuntre Dich** is 'Take courage my faltering spirit'. In memory of faltering and joyous spirits-ours and others. The piece is based on the chorale *Ermuntre Dich, mein schwacher Geist* by J.S. Bach. Many thanks to Beverley Johnston for her patience, voice, trust and invaluable input and to Hildegard Westerkamp for the gift of listening."

Created for percussionist Beverley Johnston and the Amici ensemble (Joaquin Valdepeñas, clarinet; David Hetherington, cello; Patricia Parr, piano), **Parlor Music** is a dance piece with clear references to Astor Piazzola and mid-twentieth century jazz, among other things. There are two predominant moods in the piece. In the first half there is melancholy and introspection, like with the woman in the beautiful drawing by Louisa Varalta by the same title. Here the dance movement becomes at times almost completely internalized, particularly where the vibraphone with its evocative pitch bends and the accompanying music draw the listener inwards. At other times the soft dance rhythms, instead of drawing the dancer on her feet only help to add to the loneliness and stillness of the moment. In the second half, there is a very short musical "invitation" and the dance suddenly begins. It is still driven by a manic energy rather than pleasure and it ends as abruptly as it began.